

# EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION

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## PRESS RELEASE

### U.S. EMBASSY CONSULAR SECTION'S FRAUD WARNING

**DHAKA, JANUARY 25 --** The Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy in Dhaka wishes to address recent concerns over e-mails that claim to be sent on behalf of the U.S. Department of State or Bureau of Consular Affairs. We are aware that several entities claiming to be the Department of State or facilitators for the Diversity Visa lottery or Green Cards send malicious and fraudulent e-mails to Bangladeshi citizens. The Consular Section would like to highlight two important points:

1. Diversity Visa notifications are NOT sent via e-mail. Any e-mails that state you have won the lottery or a green card are not legitimate. Diversity Visa lottery entrants can check the status of their online application by visiting our website [www.dvlottery.state.gov](http://www.dvlottery.state.gov) for the DV2012 season after May 1, 2011. No other organization or private company is authorized to notify Diversity Visa lottery applicants of their winning entry, or the next steps in the process of applying for their visa.
2. Only internet sites including the ".gov" indicator are official U.S. government websites. If you receive any e-mail from an address that is from a ".com", ".net", or ".org" e-mail address, it is not a legitimate e-mail from the U.S. Embassy.

Again, if you receive any e-mail that mentions Diversity Visa or promises you a Green Card, you should consider the contents illegitimate and fraudulent. Do NOT respond to the e-mail sender or agree to transfer any money to the entity.

Some websites try to mislead the public into thinking they are official U.S. websites. These websites may have a U.S. flag or picture of an official U.S. Government building or famous U.S. person to mislead the viewer into believing that the website is sponsored by the U.S. Government. They are not. These websites may attempt to require you to pay for services such as forms and information about immigration procedures, which are otherwise free on the Department of State [www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov) and [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov) websites, or overseas through the [Embassy](http://Embassy) websites.

If you wish to file a complaint about Internet fraud, please see the econsumer.gov website, hosted by the Federal Trade Commission at <http://www.econsumer.gov/english/> or go to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) [Internet Crime Complaint Center \(IC3\)](#). To file a complaint about unsolicited email, please contact [Department of Justice contact us page](#).

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**GR/2011**

*Note: A Bangla translation of this press release is also available at the American Center. If you are interested in the translation, please call the American Center Press Section, Tel: 8837150-4, Fax: 9885688; e-mail: [DhakaPA@state.gov](mailto:DhakaPA@state.gov); Website: [http:// dhaka.usembassy.gov](http://dhaka.usembassy.gov)*